

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:KNBROWN:LCB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CZ

SUBJECT: JEWISH CEMETERIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: PRAGUE 2358

1. SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WAS PASSED TO RABBI RUBIN ON SEPTEMBER 1. HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT FACT THAT RECORDS ON CEMETERIES' CONDITION IS "BEING PREPARED" MAY WELL MEAN THAT HE WILL NOT RECEIVE A TOTALLY OBJECTIVE PICTURE OF THE SITUATION, BUT HE NEVERTHELESS WELCOMES ANY INFORMATION AS A BASIS FOR STUDY.

2. WE GATHER FROM REFTEL THAT RABBI RUBIN MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE RECORDS UNTIL HE AND/OR DELEGATION VISITS PRAGUE. HE IS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO PLAN TRAVEL TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HOWEVER, UNTIL HE HAS SOME INDICATION THAT THE GOC, AS WELL AS THE JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, WILL FACILITATE HIS INVESTIGATION. WE TOLD RABBI RUBIN THAT WE BELIEVED GOC WOULD NOT CREATE OBSTACLES TO HIS RESEARCH; WE HESITATED, HOWEVER, TO SUGGEST THAT THE GOC

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WOULD GO OUT OF ITS WAY TO FACILITATE THE STUDY. RABBI

RUBIN WOULD CLEARLY PREFER RECEIVING FROM CZECHOSLOVAK
AUTHORITIES PERMISSION IN WRITING TO COME TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA
FOR INVESTIGATION.

3. WE ENDORSE RABBI RUBIN'S REQUEST THAT THE EMBASSY
MAKE CLEAR TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES THAT THE
RABBINICAL DELEGATION HAS NO DESIRE TO CRITICIZE
AUTHORITIES FOR CONDITION OF CEMETERIES OR TO OTHERWISE
MAKE PUBLICITY OUT OF A VISIT. THE DELEGATION'S ONLY
PURPOSE IS TO INVESTIGATE AND OFFER ASSISTANCE TO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN RESTORING/MAINTAINING CEMETERIES.
EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO REITERATE THIS AT AN APPROPRIATE
TIME, AND SUGGEST THAT RABBI RUBIN BE SENT, PERHAPS BY
CZECH EMBASSY, A LETTER SUPPORTING HIS VENTURE.

4. RABBI RUBIN WILL AWAIT WORD ON THE AVAILABILITY
OF THE STUDY, AND ON ANY ASSURANCES HE AND/OR EMBASSY
CAN GET FROM GOC THAT HIS VISIT WOULD BE WELCOME, BEFORE
PLANNING TRAVEL. KISSINGER

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